

IN THE CLAIMS

1-13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A software program storage medium for use by a user, comprising:

a portion having a software program stored therein;
and

a recordable portion having user's access authorization data which includes information pertaining to a license involving said software program, and if payment of a fee to a holder of rights in the software program has been made information as to the payment of the fee and if payment of the fee to the holder of rights in the software program has not been made information as to the non-payment of the fee,

wherein said software program storage medium is one of a compact disc, a digital versatile disc, a magneto-optical disc, or a semi-conductor memory type portable storage medium so that said software program and said user's access authorization data are stored on the portable storage medium, and

wherein said software program stored on the portable storage medium is operable to enable or prevent access to said software program in accordance with the information included in said user's access authorization data stored on the portable storage medium.

15. (previously presented) The software program storage medium according to claim 14, wherein said portion having said software program is a read-only portion.

16. (previously presented) The software program storage medium according to claim 14, wherein said user's access authorization data further includes user information for specifying said user and said user's access environment.

17. (previously presented) The software program storage medium according to claim 14, wherein said recordable portion comprises a write-once portion, and said user's access authorization data is recorded in said write-once portion of said storage medium.

18. (currently amended) A software program rights management system for managing rights to access a software program provided to a user in a storage medium, comprising:

access authorization issuing means for issuing a user's access authorization data which includes information pertaining to a license involving said software program, and if payment of a fee to a holder of rights in the software program has been made information as to the payment of the fee and if payment of the fee to the holder of rights in the software program has not been made information as to the non-payment of the fee;

storage management means for storing said user's access authorization data; and

data communication means for binding said access authorization issuing means with said storage management means,

wherein said storage medium is one of a compact disc, a digital versatile disc, a magneto-optical disc, or a semiconductor memory type portable storage medium, and

wherein said user's access authorization data and said software program are recorded in the portable storage medium, and

wherein said software program stored on the portable storage medium is operable to enable or prevent access to said software program in accordance with the information included in said user's access authorization data stored on the portable storage medium.

19. (previously presented) The software program rights management system according to claim 18, wherein said user's access authorization data includes user information for specifying a user and said user's access environment.

20. (currently amended) A management method for managing rights to use a software program provided to a user, comprising the steps of:

storing a software program onto a portion of a storage medium; and

storing user's access authorization data into a recordable portion of the storage medium, said user's access authorization data including information pertaining to a license involving said software program, and if payment of a fee to a holder of rights in the software program has been made information as to the payment of the fee and if payment of the fee to the holder of rights in the software program has not been made information as to the non-payment of the fee,

wherein said storage medium is one of a compact disc, a digital versatile disc, a magneto-optical disc, or a semiconductor memory type portable storage medium, and

wherein said software program and said user's access authorization data are recorded in the portable storage medium, and

wherein said software program stored on the portable storage medium is operable to enable or prevent access to said software program in accordance with the information included in said user's access authorization data stored on the portable storage medium.

21. (previously presented) The method for software program access management according to claim 20, further

comprising the step of storing a user's access authorization data into a database formed with said recordable portion of said portable storage medium.

22. (previously presented) The method for software program access management according to claim 20, wherein said user access authorization data includes user information for specifying a user and said user access environment.